

CLAIMS

1. Table olives characterised in that they contain lactobacilli and/or bifidobacteria adhering on the pericarp.

5 2. Olives according to claim 1 characterised in that the lactobacilli are selected from *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and *L. paracasei* and the bifidobacteria are selected from *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *B. longum*.

3. Table olives according to claim 2 characterised in that the lactobacilli are selected from: *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG ATCC53103; *L. rhamnosus*
10 IMPC 11; *L. rhamnosus* IMPC 19; *Lactobacillus paracasei* LMG P-22043; *Lactobacillus paracasei* IMPC 4.1 and that the bifidobacteria are selected from *Bifidobacterium bifidum* ATCC15696 and *Bifidobacterium longum* ATCC15708.

4. Table olives according to claim 3 characterised in that the lactobacilli
15 belong to the strain *Lactobacillus paracasei* deposited with the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms under accession number LMG P-22043.

5. Probiotic food products comprising the table olives of any one of claims 1-4.

20 6. Use of lactobacilli and bifidobacteria to coat the pericarp of table olives.

7. *Lactobacillus paracasei* deposited with the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms under accession number LMG P-22043.